

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of magnetic transfer for performing magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information signals and a slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto,

wherein the slave medium is conveyed in a manner that a recording surface of the slave medium faces vertically toward the master carrier, being held in a manner that an information-bearing surface thereof is held vertically, then bringing the information-bearing surface of said master carrier and the recording surface of the slave medium into close contact with each other,

wherein the recording surface of the slave medium and the information-bearing surface of the master carrier are oriented substantially perpendicular to ground.

2. (Currently Amended): A method of magnetic transfer for performing magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information for transfer and a slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto, wherein said slave medium is conveyed to a position for close contact with said master carrier in a state that the slave medium is held by a slave holder,

wherein, after the slave medium is disposed on the slave holder, the slave holder is conveyed to the master carrier.

3. (Original): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 2, wherein the slave medium is positioned and held at the slave holder, and

an alignment of the master carrier with the slave medium is performed via the slave holder.

4. (Currently Amended): A magnetic transfer device that performs magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information signals and a slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto, said magnetic transfer device comprising:

contacting means that holds the master carrier in a manner so that an information-bearing surface of the master carrier faces vertically and that brings the information-bearing surface into contact with the slave medium;

conveying means that conveys the slave medium in a manner so that a recording surface of the slave medium faces vertically toward said contacting means; and

magnetic field generating means that applies a magnetic field to the slave medium and the master carrier collectively held at the contacting means,

wherein the recording surface of the slave medium and the information-bearing surface of the master carrier are oriented substantially perpendicular to ground.

5. (Currently Amended): A magnetic transfer device that performs magnetic transfer by bringing a master carrier bearing information for transfer and a slave medium into close contact with each other then applying a transfer magnetic field thereto, said magnetic transfer device comprising:

a close contact base that positions and holds said master carrier;

a slave holder that positions and holds said slave medium and conveys the slave medium to a position for close contact;

pressurizing means that brings the slave medium held by the slave holder and the master carrier into close contact with each other;

a positioning mechanism that aligns the close contact base with the slave holder; and

magnetic field applying means that applies a transfer magnetic field to the slave medium and the master carrier that are closely contacted with each other,

wherein, after the slave medium is disposed on the slave holder, the slave holder is conveyed to the master carrier.

6. (Original): The magnetic transfer device according to claim 5,
wherein either a plurality of positioning pins or a plurality of positioning holes are provided on the close contact base;

either a plurality of positioning holes or a plurality of positioning pins are provided on said slave holder; and

the positioning mechanism performs alignment by engaging the positioning pins with the positioning holes.

7. (Original): The magnetic transfer device according to claim 6, wherein diameters of the positioning holes are designed to be greater than those of the positioning pins, and the positioning pins and the positioning holes are partially engaged to perform alignment.

8. (Original): A magnetic recording medium, wherein information signals that are magnetically transferred to the magnetic recording medium by the method according to claim 1 are composed of servo signals.

9. (Original): A magnetic recording medium, wherein information signals that are magnetically transferred to the magnetic recording medium by the device according to claim 4 are composed of servo signals.

10. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 1, wherein the slave medium is conveyed on a slave holder to the master carrier.

11. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 10, wherein the slave medium is slideably aligned with the master carrier by one of smooth pins and

holes disposed on the slave holder and other of pins and holes disposed on a base holding the master carrier.

12. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 1 further comprising generating a transfer magnetic field at at least one side of the slave medium wherein the transfer magnetic field is applied in a direction parallel to a tracking direction of the slave medium.

13. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 2, wherein the slave medium is slideably aligned with the master carrier by one of smooth pins and holes disposed on the slave holder and other of pins and holes disposed on a base holding the master carrier.

14. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 2 further comprising generating a transfer magnetic field at at least one side of the slave medium wherein the transfer magnetic field is applied in a direction parallel to a tracking direction of the slave medium.

15. (Previously Presented): The magnetic transfer device according to claim 6, wherein each of the positioning pins has a smooth surface to slide into a respective positioning hole.

16. (Previously Presented): The magnetic transfer device according to claim 6 further comprising at least one electromagnetic device disposed at at least one side of the slave medium wherein a transfer magnetic field is applied in a direction parallel to a tracking direction of the slave medium.

17. (canceled):

18. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 1, wherein the information-bearing surface of said master carrier has concavo-convex micro-patterns corresponding to the information signals born by said master carrier.

19. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 1, wherein the recording surface of the slave medium and the information-bearing surface of the master carrier face are always held vertically.

20. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 1, wherein the master carrier and the slave medium rotate about a rotation axis disposed horizontally.

21. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 12, wherein the transfer magnetic field is substantially parallel to a planar surface of the slave medium.

22. (Previously Presented): The method of magnetic transfer according to claim 14, wherein the transfer magnetic field is substantially parallel to a planar surface of the slave medium.